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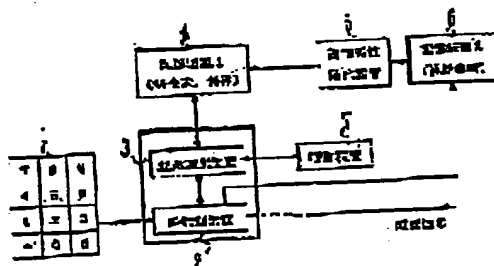
(21)Application number : 04-114769  
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## (54) COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT

## (57)Abstract

PURPOSE: To select an operator exactly offering the minimum charge by estimating a representative value of classification as the speech time duration depending on which representative pattern the speech characteristic pattern of the user is classified in.

CONSTITUTION: A call management equipment 2 imports a dial signal to a path selection device 3 to request the selection of an operator offering a minimum charge. The path selection device 3 retrieves speech characteristic information stored in a storage device 4 based on distance information calculated from a dial signal received by the call management equipment 2 and a current time obtained from a clock device 7 to obtain an estimate speech time duration corresponding to the relevant characteristic. Then the path selection device 3 retrieves the distance dependent and time zone dependent charge of each operator stored in the storage device 4 by using the estimate speech time duration, the distance information and the current time obtained in this way as keys to decide an operator whose charge is predicted to be minimum and to inform it to the call management equipment 2, which sends a dial signal to a telephone line.



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